

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 868

By Wilder

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud Coach Rick Rudesill and the Bolivar Central High School Boys' Basketball Team State on winning the 2004 TSSAA Class AA State Championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school athletic teams who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Bolivar Central High School basketball program is renowned for its perennial nature as a bastion of extraordinary athletic facility and competitive excellence in the world of high school sports; and

WHEREAS, the Bolivar Central Tigers achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2003-2004 season, earning an impressive State Championship in the 2004 TSSAA Class AA Boys' Basketball Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers were led by Coach Rick Rudesill to an impressive 31-4 record, which included clutch victories in the District 12 Championship and the Region 6 Championship games; and

WHEREAS, in the state championship title, the Bolivar Central Tigers defeated their District 12-AA rival, Jackson South Side High School, for the fifth time this season; and

WHEREAS, two of the match-ups between these teams were close competitions, including the District Championship game that went into overtime, but the Tigers handled South Side with ease in the State championship match, mounting an insurmountable 20-point lead in the second quarter on their way to an 80-60 victory; and

WHEREAS, shooting 57.4 percent from the field, the Tigers had five players in double figures; sophomore guard Willie Kemp led all scorers in the championship game with 19 points,

and senior forward/guard Brian Lake, a Mr. Basketball Finalist, earned Most Valuable Player honors for the tournament after his 11-point, 10-rebound performance against South Side; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers faced stiff competition in the opening games of the tournament; in the quarterfinals, they held off Raleigh Egypt in the final minutes of the game to win by three points; in the semifinals, the Bolivar Central team found themselves tied with Martin Luther King High School at the end of regulation, but persevered to capture the win in overtime; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the tireless efforts of the players and coaching staff, the Tigers were well-prepared for each opponent they faced; whether it was the physical play of Raleigh Egypt, the slow down game of Martin Luther King, or the "get out and run" approach that Bolivar Central prefers, the team adapted to the style of play to achieve their remarkable successes; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Rick Rudesill has devoted himself wholly to the cultivation of the basketball program at Bolivar Central High School, and he laid the groundwork for this state championship by sharing with the young men on the team his substantial knowledge of basketball training and competition, his many years of coaching and athletic experience, and his passion both for the sport and for excellence in every endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the 2003-2004 Bolivar Central Tigers are: sophomore Willie Kemp, junior Artemus Murrell, senior JoJuan Walker, junior Kidrecus Giles, sophomore Brett Sisco, senior Kyle Becton, junior Jay Griggs, freshman Dorell Crisp, sophomore Brandy Robinson, junior Nahada Gudger, senior Demitrice Beauregard, freshman Presley Griggs, junior Olajuwon Kemp, senior Brian Lake, sophomore Fredderyle Simmons, and senior David Taylor; and

WHEREAS, the members of the boys' basketball team at Bolivar Central High School epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition, while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the basketball court; and

WHEREAS, they have inspired their school's student body and united the entire Bolivar community in completing their triumphal run through the 2004 season; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a championship season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Bolivar Central Tigers for winning the 2004 TSSAA Class AA State Boys' Basketball Championship and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we do hereby honor and congratulate Coach Rick Rudesill, his assistant coaches, the team's managers, and the members of the Bolivar Central High School Tigers Boys' Basketball Team on their formidable legacy, their individual and collective resolve, and their extraordinary championship season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.